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EXAMINER

RENDON, CHRISTIAN E

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Response to Arguments

The limitations of this application are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) art combination.

Prior Art Combination Fails to Teach the Features of Claims 5, 10, 11, 16-17, 21 and its dependant claims

1. The applicant argues the prior art combination fails to teach the listed features:
 - a. monitor a signal of an image fed from the display control device
 - b. detect whether the signal is in a normal state thereby rendering the image as a normal image or an abnormal state thereby rendering the image as an abnormal image being different from the normal image
 - c. control the display device such that when the image state keeping device detects that the signal is in the abnormal state, the display device is controlled to display the image as the normal image

However the Examiner disagrees with the applicant's belief these features are not taught by the art combination. It is well known in the art of computing that a computer always performs tasks to the specifications of its code. Therefore computer code entering a 'normal' state produces the outputs defined by the 'normal' state and the same is true for an 'abnormal' state. The claim language fails to define the specifics of an 'abnormal state' hence the broad interpretation by the Examiner to view an 'abnormal' state as an event involving a power interruption. Loose teaches the use of mechanical and electric reels to display images. In other words, Loose is able to produce a variety of images as instructed by a computer program. Weatherford teaches providing emergency power supply comprising of relays to ground the second energy source (Weatherford: col. 14, lines 27-36). Yoseloff teaches saving images in the event of a power failure (Yoseloff: col. 6, lines 8-12). Therefore the prior art combination is a game that produces a variety of images on a system that has a backup system containing a power source and saving routine. Hence feature (a) is taught by the image saving

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capabilities disclosed by Yoseloff in the event of a power failure (Yoseloff: col. 6, lines 8-12). An 'abnormal state' occurs as a result of a power failure causing the system to switch to a backup power supply (Weatherford: col. 14, lines 27-36). Yoseloff presents performing tasks during a power failure or an abnormal state hence the art combination teaching feature (b) by entering an abnormal state and performing whatever task the computer is order to do such as displaying an error message or images of lesser quality due to the power constrictions, saving images, or simply an image effected by a power spike. Feature (c) is taught once the prior art combination is able to function under the main power supply, in other words a return to the normal state.

Prior Art Combination Fails to Teach the Features of Claims 22, 26 and its dependant claims

2. These two claims include the limitations discussed above as well as a feature that displays an image of relatively high transparency on the display device when the image signal control device detects abnormality of the signal of the image such that the relative high transparency of the image is sufficient to enable a player to see through the image and view at least one of the plurality of symbols on a front-most portion of the reel. Yoseloff teaches the technical aspects of the claimed feature by disclosing an electronic display that adjusts an image in terms of transparency, translucency, or opacity (Loose: col. 5, lines 24-27). Therefore the prior art is capable of performing the feature and the prior art combination would allow the viewing of the mechanical reels (Loose: col. 5, lines 27-28) when the power is loss to the electronic display. The combination also offers the possibility of displaying the image as transparent when the system has entered into the second power supply scheme. The system could also transition into a normal state by performing an image transparency to opacity as the system leaves an abnormal state to return to a normal state.